

**Department of Public Works and Transportation
Montgomery County, Maryland**

DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES



The staff and students at Harmony Hills Elementary School in Silver Spring created this recycling bulletin board to remind staff, students and visitors about the need and importance of recycling.

***MONTHLY REPORT
FEBRUARY 2003***



Printed on Recycled and Recyclable Paper

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>OVERVIEW</u>	3
<u>CITIZEN COMMITTEES</u>	4
<u>COLLECTIONS</u>	4
<u>WASTE MINIMIZATION</u>	7
<u>HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS</u>	8
<u>AIR PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS</u>	8
<u>RECYCLING</u>	9
<u>PILOT PROGRAMS</u>	10
<u>FACILITY ACTIVITIES</u>	10
<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>	13
<u>SOLID WASTE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL</u>	14
<u>GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS</u>	15

OVERVIEW

Tonnage at a Glance

The following table shows key material flows during the current month, fiscal year to date (FY Total), and current calendar month in the two prior fiscal years. (County fiscal year 2003 began July 1, 2002.)

FACILITY	Feb FY 03	FY 03 Total	Feb FY 02	Feb FY 01
Materials Recovery Facility ⁽¹⁾	5,092 tons	56,224 tons	5,976 tons	5,733 tons
Brunswick Landfill Facility ⁽²⁾	12,555 tons	147,888 tons	17,091 tons	10,847 ⁽⁴⁾ tons
Resource Recovery Facility ⁽³⁾	36,451 tons	393,960 tons	35,872 tons	36,835 tons
Yard Trim Compost Facility	3,054 tons	53,508 tons	0 tons	960 tons

⁽¹⁾MRF tons reported are outgoing.

⁽²⁾This category only addresses waste sent to the landfill for disposal. It does not include rubble that is recycled.

⁽³⁾RRF tonnage refers to tons burned (processed). Waste shipped from the Transfer Station but not burned is in the pit and is not included in the tonnage presented here.

⁽⁴⁾ Does not include 2,840 tons of ash sent to American Ash Recycling pilot program in February 2001.

Revenue Analysis and Systems Evaluation – During February, program staff:

- Processed changes in the TXA 170 system;
- Completed entering remaining appeals for 2002;
- Processed vacancy refunds for February;
- Updated contractor service unit counts;
- Updated street listing maps;
- Continued analysis on nonresidential properties to support new charge rates;
- Completed research and analysis on Montgomery County GFA for future billing;
- Continued to research solid waste fee abnormalities in the property tax database;
- Completed and submitted 2003 Survey of Residential Solid Waste Services for the Washington Metropolitan Region Data Collection Form, Northern Virginia Commission;
- Received and began tabulating tonnages from the Solid Waste and Collector/Hauler Reports for the period July 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002;
- Began conducting Solid Waste and Collector/Hauler Audits for the last six month period;
- Sent a reminder letter to all Maryland Processors in order to receive a better response on the Maryland Recycling Tonnage Report form for the calendar year 2002;

- Assisted with finalizing the DSWS Master Budget Spreadsheet for the FY04-09 period;
- Generated Hauler Credit Account invoices for February 2003 totaling \$955,431.00; this was an increase over February 2002 of \$97,109.00.
- Set up three new hauler credit accounts bringing the total of active accounts to 136;
- Updated 90-day Aging Report which now reflects a past due accounts receivable balance of less than 1.4%;
- Conducted analyses related to rate setting and management issues;
- Assisted, as needed, with the ongoing solid waste revenue bond refinancing project; and otherwise
- Assisted, as needed, with budget processes.

CITIZEN COMMITTEES

Facilities Implementation Group – FIG met on January 14^h at the Gothic Barn in Dickerson. Fourteen FIG Members, four County staff, three contract staff and one resident of the area were in attendance. Topics discussed included the Chairman's report on the November meeting with the Executive, the draft Waste Disposal Permit and the comments from the Subcommittee on the draft Cultural Resources Interpretation Plan.

The next FIG meeting will be held on March 11, 2003, at the Gothic Barn in Dickerson. Among topics on the agenda are comments on the draft Waste Disposal Permit and facilities update.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee – SWAC met Tuesday, February 4th. Ten SWAC members, seven County staff and two guests were in attendance. SWAC's meeting with the County Executive (CE) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 11th. SWAC received a presentation on Recycling Outreach and Education in the Single-Family Sector, Effects of Light-Weighting on our Recycling Rates/Achievements, Recycling Volunteers, and the Recycling Task Force's Recommendations to the CE.

COLLECTIONS

Refuse – Refuse collections were disrupted twice during the month of February as a result of snow. A storm on Friday, February 7th cancelled collections which had to slide to Saturday. A much larger storm on Monday, February 17th cancelled collections on Monday and Tuesday and greatly reduced effectiveness for the remainder of the week. Refuse collection started back up on Wednesday, but recycling was cancelled for the remainder of the week. The week of February 24th was one of catch up.

Contractor Performance – During the month of February, DSWS received 462 complaints; 387 less than February 2002, which numbered 849. The 849 complaints received in February 2002, were due to problems with a recycling contractor collecting cardboard.

Customer Service – DSWS received 12,446 incoming calls and 368 follow-up calls were made for quality check; 107 e-mails and 344 blue bins ordered by e-mail requests were handled by the Customer Service Staff. There were 1,244 blue bins delivered in February 2003.

Contracts - Procurements were completed for contract areas 2 and 5 (total of 31,000 homes for refuse & recycling collection). Each was awarded to Ecology Services. Area 2 will start March 31st and area 5 will start April 14th.

Areas 9 through 13 (five separate contracts totaling 59,000 homes for recycling collection) have been evaluated with the successful proposals forwarded to Procurement for award.

The procurement of 30,000 wheeled carts for mixed paper recycling will be accomplished through a bridge contract with Toter, Inc. and the City of Phoenix, Arizona. This is at Procurement being processed.

Recycling – Mixed paper tonnages for the residential program during the past 52 weeks are as follows:

CURRENT PERIOD	POUNDS PER HOUSEHOLD	CORRESPONDING PERIOD PREVIOUS YEAR
2/18/02-3/15/02	9.02	9.41
3/18/02-4/12/02	9.73	9.87
4/15/02-5/10/02	9.81	9.68
5/13/02-6/07/02	9.58	10.19
6/10/02-7/05/02	9.21	9.21
7/08/02-8/02/02	8.74	8.62
8/05/02-8/30/02	9.24	9.10
9/02/02-9/27/02	10.15	10.08
9/30/02-10/25/02	10.45	11.10
10/28/02-11/22/02	11.04	10.83
11/25/02-12/20/02	11.74	11.52
12/23/02-1/17/03	9.75	9.58
1/20/03-2/14/03	8.83	9.01

Enforcement Actions – Three citations were issued for violations of the County's Solid Waste Laws:

One citation	Collection without a valid collector's license	\$500
One citation	Collection without a valid collector's tag attached	\$500
One citation	Not recycling in accordance with regulation 109-92	\$100

Eight NOV's were issued for violations of the County's Solid Waste Laws:

Three NOV's	Failed to store solid wastes in a proper container with a lid
Two NOV's	Deposit solid wastes upon the property of another
One NOV	Improperly stored or permitted solid wastes to accumulate

One NOV Stored solid wastes outside storage containers
 One NOV Improperly stored medical or pathological wastes

Web Site - The following is information gathered from the Montgomery County Solid Waste web site through the month of February:

List Memberships	
HHW Announcements	294
Holiday Reminder List	2,685
Newsletter Helper	45
Usage Counters – February 2003	
Number of Visits	4,931
Number of Page Views	7,721
Among the most frequently visited pages were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling • Trash • HHW • Snow Update Information • Recycling/Trash collections Holiday information 	
E-Mail – February 2003	
Top Issues : Snow Related Complaints/Questions, Trash Collection Day Lookup Questions, HHW	192
Blue Bins	344

Comments we received in February included:

- I can't tell you how helpful this newsletter is! As my kids would say, it rocks! Thanks so much for this simple and effective communication tool.
- Thanks for these reminders; it is helpful (I was thinking President's Day WAS a trash holiday). Also, thanks for the link to where we can recycle rechargeable batteries and the note that "button batteries" still need to be disposed of separately. I think our county does a great job of promoting recycling!—we get our notices via ISCA/Indian Spring Citizens Assn.; most helpful
- I love your email updates! Now I needn't haul my recyclables to the curb, unnecessarily.
- My neighbor told me when I saw her putting her trash out after the snow—there is no recycling this week which was very helpful. Didn't know about this option (email notification) but think it is a terrific idea—I usually checked the newspaper but this is more convenient and reliable. Thanks.
- This is one of the most useful and user friendly web pages operated by a local authority. Congratulations. The service could be even better if it was more

easily accessible through a search query on the Montgomery County web page. Typing "trash" or "solid waste" brings up a lot of irrelevant and out-dated information. But thanks for the good service.

- Just a line to let you know how valuable I find this service. It is really annoying to drag things out to the curb only to find that for one reason or another, they will not be picked up or I missed the pick-up because the date shifted. Your e-mails are also easier to understand than the chart which the County provides. Now whenever my neighbors ask me questions about trash pick-up, I can answer them as I did this week and tell them about the e-mail notices. Please pass this e-mail along to *the powers that be* to let them know that this is a great idea and great customer service. Keep up the good work!
- No questions. No complaints. Just thanks to you and the entire Solid Waste community for a well organized, well executed, and helpful operation-especially for the intelligence and energy you all display when the going gets tough.
- Thank you for the helpful information. It has been especially handy during the recent snow storm. We live in Hillandale and were the only ones on our street that had our garbage out on Wednesday, our neighbors thought we were crazy, but we looked real smart after it was collected. And, all thanks to your e-mail notification.
- It is now 9:30 and the recycling truck has just been here. Thank you for all your support and help. This is why we love to live in Montgomery County, Thanks to people like you.
- Your failure to pickup yard trim is without excuse. Your notice on the web site only works if it is checked, and there was no legitimate reason to check. Your phone staff and supervisor were not helpful and not particularly pleasant. Your service stinks.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Computer Recycling – Approximately 27 tons of computers were recycled in February.

Hg-Free Thermometer Campaign – Due to popular demand, the Hg-Free campaign will continue into spring 2003.

Department of Environmental Protection's Home Composting and Source Reduction Activities – A composting and vermicomposting workshop was presented to the Woodley Gardens Garden Club in Rockville.

Working with DSWS on gas can and gas-powered lawn and garden equipment trade-in in April; developing promotional materials and on-line registration capabilities.

Updating Earth Month WebPages.

The Green Man Show continues to air daily on Cable Channel 6. A complete schedule for the program is available online at <http://greenmanshow.com>, with a link to the show in simulcast streaming video format.

The Green Man column with recommendations on alternative (resource conserving) landscaping continues in several Maryland editions of The Gazette Newspapers and on the web at both <http://www.gazette.net/columnists/> and <http://greenman.askdep.com>.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection – No collection events were held in February 2003. A schedule is now available for spring 2003, with the first event being held on March 2nd.

Small Quantity Generator Ecowise Program – One Small Quantity Generator (SQG)/Ecowise event was held on February 12, 2003.

AIR PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Resource Recovery Facility (RRF): CEMS Tracking of RRF Operations – The Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS) continued to track the percent load, certain engineering parameters and emissions of all three units. All three units operated until approximately 11 p.m. on February 14th when a spike in the Carbon Monoxide (CO) level occurred for unit 3. Discussions with Covanta staff indicated that the unit was brought offline for baghouse maintenance scheduled for the last week of February. Subsequently, the CEMS recorded emissions and other parameters from units 1 and 2. No waste was received from the Transfer Station during the snow storm that occurred from Saturday February 15th through Monday February 17th. Therefore, both units were running at less than 50% load on February 17th. At approximately 11 a.m. on February 21st, the CEMS recorded no emissions from unit 1 indicating that the unit was brought offline because of continued low pit. From then on, only unit 2 continued to operate until approximately 3 p.m. on February 24th when the CEMS began recording emissions for unit 1, indicating that this unit was being brought back online. Thereafter, the CEMS recorded emissions and other parameters from units 1 and 2 until the end of the month.

On February 26th, Covanta performed the monthly "Opacity Test" for February. The opacity test is a requirement under Title V of the RRF Air Permit. As in past tests, the opacity readings were 0% compared to the Title V Permit limit of 10%.

In the first week of February, the set of four CEMS CD-ROM's were updated to include CEMS data up to January 31, 2003. Copies of the CDs' were placed in the Rockville and Poolesville libraries.

FIG-SWAC Air Quality Subcommittee – In February, the draft report on the "RRF Update of the Multiple Pathway Health Risk Study" was mailed to the members of the Air Quality Subcommittee; a meeting to discuss the report is scheduled for March 12th.

ENSR is currently preparing the draft report on the Winter Ambient Air Monitoring Program that concluded in January. The report is expected by the end of March.

Oaks Landfill Energy Recovery Facility: Leachate Evaporation Technology –

For the entire month of February, the leachate evaporator remained shutdown. The backup flare operated throughout the month.

Contracts and RFP's – DSWS submitted the division's recommendation to the Office of Procurement for the selection of a replacement contractor for ENSR. The Office of Procurement is currently reviewing the "Cost-price" information in the three proposals and is expected to approve the selection by mid-March. A draft contract will be prepared as soon as approval is received from the Office of Procurement.

An RFP for the Meteorological Monitoring Program was submitted to the Office of Procurement. Procurement is expected to advertise the RFP in mid-March.

RECYCLING

Public Outreach – Staff is revising and amending the Plan Update to Achieve 50 Percent Recycling, a document which provides details to the County Executive's approved and recommended budget regarding recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled.

Commercial Recycling and Waste Reduction – Staff continued to perform on-site visits of businesses in February and resolved several complaints. Staff began analyzing data from the annual reports submitted by large businesses and mailed reminder postcards to all medium and selected small businesses to remind them of the March 1st deadline for filing an annual recycling report. The County performed waste audits on four businesses to gain an understanding of the types of materials these specific sectors are generating and will offer specific recommendations to these businesses to improve their recycling programs. Five focus groups were held which were designed to gain an understanding on the most efficient way to implement new strategies within the business community to increase recycling participation. Staff participated in a training program for one hundred M-NCPPC employees, gave a presentation on recycling to a private school and conducted tenant education in a multi-tenant office building in Rockville.

Multi-Family Recycling – Staff continued to provide daily on-site technical assistance and outreach to multi-family property managers as well as resolved citizen complaints. A recycling seminar was conducted on February 25, 2003, for property managers of multi-family properties. Five focus group sessions were held during the last week in February that will continue into the first week in March. Annual recycling reports continue to be received and are being processed for accuracy and completeness. Benchmarking has begun at the six multi-family properties participating in the blue bag pilot program.

Mixed Paper Recycling – Educational materials continue to be distributed to residents directly and at events. Materials include a flyer, 2 brochures, a booklet,

highlighting the do's and don'ts of mixed paper recycling at the curb and a paper bag printed with the do's and don'ts of mixed paper recycling.

Volunteer Activities – Staff is updating the Recycling Volunteer Program recruiting brochure, to attract and solicit new volunteers. Staff is also drafting and finalizing the next issue of the Recycleletter, to be distributed in March. Three volunteers provided 8 hours of office assistance handling various projects for the recycling programs. Planning volunteer activities for students on days when school will be out continues. Planning for spring time events is ongoing, and we are already booked solid!

PILOT PROGRAMS

Mixed Paper Pilot – The February totals for the Potomac paper toter program are:

2/05/03	15,660	19.33 lbs. per house
2/12/03	13, 320	16.44 lbs. per house
2/19/03	----	No collections this week
<u>2/26/03</u>	<u>15,600</u>	<u>19.26 lbs. per house</u>
Total	44,580	18.35 lbs. average

The current average weight per house for the 72 weeks of the toter program is 20.01 lbs. as opposed to 13.99 lbs. per house prior to the program. This represents a 43.03% increase in the mixed paper capture rate since the start of the toter program.

FACILITY ACTIVITIES

Resource Recovery Facility – Of the 36,451 tons processed in February, 262 tons were reject material from the Compost Facility. Trash deliveries have fallen below 10,000 ton/week primarily due to the inclement weather's impact on the waste flow. In February, the facility ran with an average boiler on-line percentage of 74% of the time. Each boiler was down for some portion of the month due to reduced MSW flows. Two events caused unscheduled down time during the month. Number 2 boiler was down on February 10th for 19.5 hours for grate bar repairs and the turbine generator was down for 1.3 hours on February 19th due to control system problems.

There were no significant safety incidents during the month. The facility continues to operate with no OSHA recordable accidents in over 1065 days.

There were no generation emergencies issued by Mirant during the month of February. There was a need to purchase power on February 19th when the turbine generator tripped.

There were no reportable air or water quality environmental excursions during the month of February.

The following environmental activities occurred:

- Submitted the semi-annual report on emissions to EPA/MDE;
- Submitted the January 2003 Potable Water Monthly Operating Report to MDE;
- Completed the Refuse Disposal Permit renewal application for signature;

- Submitted the SARA Tier II report to Montgomery County/MDE;
- Submitted Annual Tonnage Report to MDE;
- Notified MDE of a Diesel fuel spill on February 1st;
- The monthly visible emission (Method 9) observation required by the RRF's Title V permit was performed on February 26th.

Materials Recovery Facility – Approximately 1,389 tons of commingled material were shipped out and approximately 3,703 tons of mixed paper were loaded out and transferred to the Office Paper Systems processing facility. Cancellation of five regularly scheduled collection days the week of February 16th, due to inclement weather, resulted in the month's lower than expected tonnages. During this down-time, equipment was cleaned and the processing system was repainted. The facility was open and ran extra hours the following week, including Saturday.

Oaks Landfill – SCS Engineers and DSWS resolved all outstanding design issues concerning planned improvements to the landfill gas control system, and SCS developed a corresponding construction budget. DSWS issued a Notice to Proceed to SCS to begin construction.

The proposed contract awardee for subdividing the leachate storage lagoons to facilitate long-term maintenance began preparation of award submittals such as insurance, minority status, etc. required by the Office of Procurement.

Gude Landfill – No activities this month.

Transfer Station – During February, Covanta shipped via rail 37,641 tons of processible waste from the Transfer Station to the RRF; 2,386 fewer tons than shipped in February 2002. This decrease is likely due to the effects of unusually severe winter weather on waste generation and collection.

The overhauled compactor cylinder was returned to the site.

Compactor #3 was taken off-line for scheduled maintenance. Work started February 20th and will be completed in early March.

The Transfer Station was shut down on February 17th due to heavy snow. It re-opened on the 18th with a limited amount of waste received that day.

Delivery of 45 new waste hauling containers for transporting burnable waste to the RRF was completed.

Litter was collected by MES along Shady Grove Road from Route 355 to the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road.

The inbound radiation detectors had 18 alarms in February 2003, including 2 false alarms (alarms that could not be re-verified) - all but one of the valid alarms were identified as medical isotopes with short half-lives, including some cases where the driver had undergone recent medical treatment, and were accepted. One load was

rejected and dealt with by appropriate radiation safety personnel. It contained camera lenses that had a coating containing Thorium-232, a long-lived industrial radiation source.

Site 2 Landfill Properties – The lease for the Chiswell property is at the County Attorney's Office for review. DSWs staff reviewed the draft Site 2 landfill permit and prepared comments. On February 13th, DSWs staff met with a tenant to discuss traffic concerns on Martinsburg Road. DSWs staff mailed a certified letter on February 4th to tenant causing erosion problem on the adjacent property leased to another tenant; the tenant responded to the letter acknowledging the problem on February 26, 2003.

Yard Trim Compost Facility – In February, the Yard Trim Facility received 3,054 tons of leaves for composting. The facility has received 53,508 tons of material through February 2003 compared to 44,495 tons through February 2002. The increase resulted from material being wet; leaf collecting had to be performed with a loader rather than vacuuming. Projection for the fiscal year is 72,000 tons of material.

Staff is working on a contingency plan to identify other facilities to accept the material in the event that we hit 77,000 tons in a fiscal year. We will issue a Request for Expression of Interest or other form of solicitation when we receive 70,000 tons. When we receive 74,000 tons in any subsequent fiscal year, we will award a contract with a facility to reserve capacity for yard-trim.

Two hundred sixty-two (262) tons of debris were sent to the RRF.

Six hundred eighteen (618) cubic yards of Leafgro were shipped to distributors.

Bagging Operation – In February, 6,700 bags of Leafgro were shipped to distributors. (each bag is 1.5 cubic ft. weighing 45 lbs).

Fire Hydrant Installation – KCE Engineering has certified that the project will not impact wetlands in the area. Work will start as soon as weather permits.

Linden Farm Renovations – Renovation work is complete, including painting of the barns and silos. Roof repair work on the Gothic Barn has been delayed due to inclement weather conditions.

Out-of-County Haul

Brunswick County, Virginia - During the month of February, approximately 10,371 tons of ash residue and approximately 2,184 tons of nonprocessable waste were transported to the County's dedicated disposal cell at the Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. (BWMF) Landfill in Brunswick County, Virginia. About 39 tons of rubble were recycled this month at Clean Earth in Hagerstown, MD. Five additional chassis and containers are on order and should be delivered in March. These will minimize future equipment shortages during peak periods of nonprocessable waste generation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Important Telephone Numbers

General information on solid waste	240-777-6400
Customer Service	240-777-6410
Transfer Station	301-840-2370 (County Office) 301-590-1032 (Covanta)
Materials Recovery Facility	301-840-2701 (County Office) 301-417-1447 (MES)
Resource Recovery Facility	240-777-6494 (County Office) 301-916-3031 (Covanta)
Yard Trim Compost Facility	301-428-8185 (MES)
Internet for DSWS	www.mcrecycles.org

Note: All comments, questions, and suggestions on the contents of this report should be addressed to:

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SOLID WASTE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

TOPIC OR FACILITY	
Latest Recycling Rate Reported in Montgomery County	37.2% (FY01)
Recycling Goal	45% by December 2002 50% by December 2004
Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)	Guaranteed Capacity = 85% of 1800 TPD on an annual basis (558,450 tons/yr).
Yard Trim Composting Facility (DCF)	Operations limited to receipt of 77,000 tons/year under Sugarloaf Settlement Agreement. FY02 tons received- 63,634
# Residences receiving trash collection by County contractors	84,959
# Residences receiving collection of recyclables in blue bins and yard waste collection	202,411
Term of out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract with Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc.	June 19, 1997 through June 30, 2012 with an option for a five-year renewal. (Service started on October 20, 1997.)

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AAR	American Ash Recycling, Inc.
APC	Air Pollution Control
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
BFI	Browning Ferris Industries
CDL	Commercial Driver's License
CEMS	Continuous Emissions Monitoring System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
CIP	Capital Improvements Program
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
CSX	Chesapeake Transportation Systems
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DFS	Division of Facilities and Services
DNR	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FIG	Facilities Implementation Group
GFA	Gross Floor Area
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
IFB	Invitation For Bid
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LFG	Landfill Gas
LTTS	Leachate Thermal Treatment System
MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
MCR	Maximum Continuous Rating
MDE	Maryland Department of Environment
MES	Maryland Environmental Service
Mg/l	Milligrams per liter
M-NCPPC	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MWh	Mega Watt hours
NEA	Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority
NOV	Notice of Violation
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NTP	Notice to Proceed
OLAC	Oaks Landfill Advisory Commission
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OPS	Office Paper Systems
PEPCO	Potomac Electric Power Company
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RFP	Request for Proposal
ROL	Reduced Operating Level
RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
SCA	Sugarloaf Citizens Association
SHA	State Highway Administration
SORRT	Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons
SDAT	State Department of Assessments and Taxation
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TXA170	Computer Interface Program (Property Account Database)
TCLP	Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure
TPD	Tons Per Day
TRRAC	Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums
UT	Ultra-sonic Testing
WM	Waste Management